

Rent Ready

Rent Ready is a three step plan to help prepare you for becoming a tenant.

To become Rent Ready, you will need to complete the following steps:

Money Matters

It's important to check your finances before you bid on a property. Think **CASH**:

- **Check** – Does your bank or building society account let you make direct debit payments? We will need to see copies of your bank statements to verify income and outgoings.
- **Ask** – Do you have the money to pay for the costs of moving and furnishing your home? You may be eligible for help with moving costs and rent in advance in the form of a Discretionary Housing Payment, please contact your local authority for more information. Additional grants and loans can be applied for, visit the Turn2Us website for further details.
- **Save** – Have you saved four weeks rent in advance? If you are in receipt of certain benefits, charitable help or short-term benefit advances may be available to you. Charity Search and the GOV.uk website have plenty of helpful resources available.
- **Help** – Have completed your own credit check? It's important to look at your credit report to establish that it's accurate. If you have any outstanding debts, ensure that you've set up repayment plans and or have enough disposable income to make the minimum repayments. Plymouth Community Homes will carry out a credit check with Experian as a part of the Tenancy Assessment process, so it's advisable to assess your financial situation beforehand.

Completing the CASH check is important, because if you don't, it could mean you miss out on a property.

Proof of Identity

Once you have checked your finances, you should make sure that you have documents to prove your identity.

Your identity will need to be confirmed with photo ID. This could be a passport, EEA Permanent Residence card or a UK driving license.

Other documents can be accepted, please check the Right to Rent guidance on the GOV.uk website for more information.

Without proof of identity, we will be unable to offer you a property.

Proof of Address

After you've checked your finances and gathered your proof of identity, you will need to ensure you have the documents to provide proof of address.

Documents such as utility bills, benefit award letters, payslips or bank statements that are dated within the last three months can be accepted.

If you've chosen paperless billing, you can provide digital or printed copies of your documentation as proof of address.

Remember, if you need to prove a local connection to the area, make sure that you have the relevant evidence to support your application.

Once you've completed all three steps, you're officially Rent Ready and prepared for the next step; the Pre Tenancy Assessment.